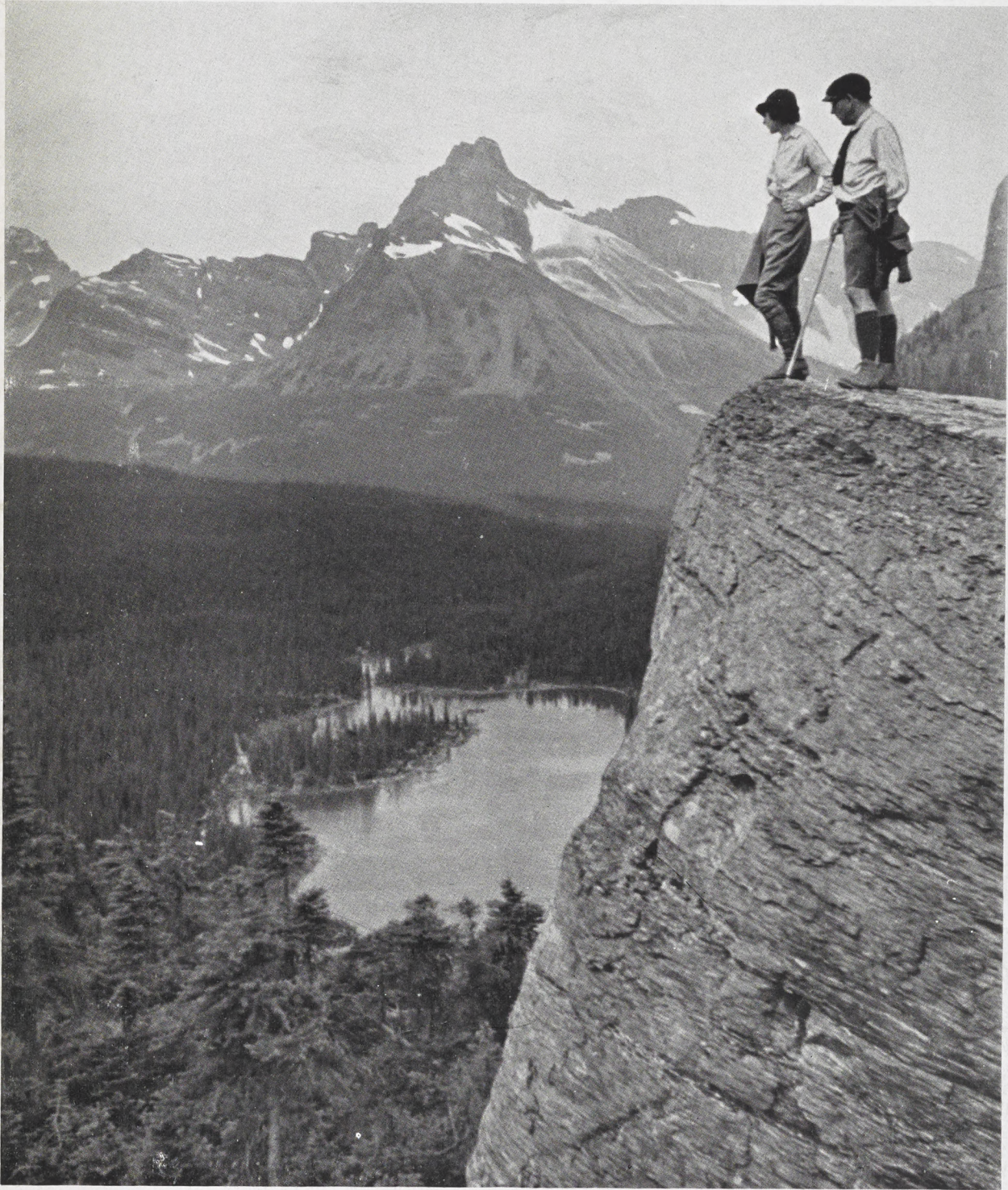


# *The Sky Line Trail*



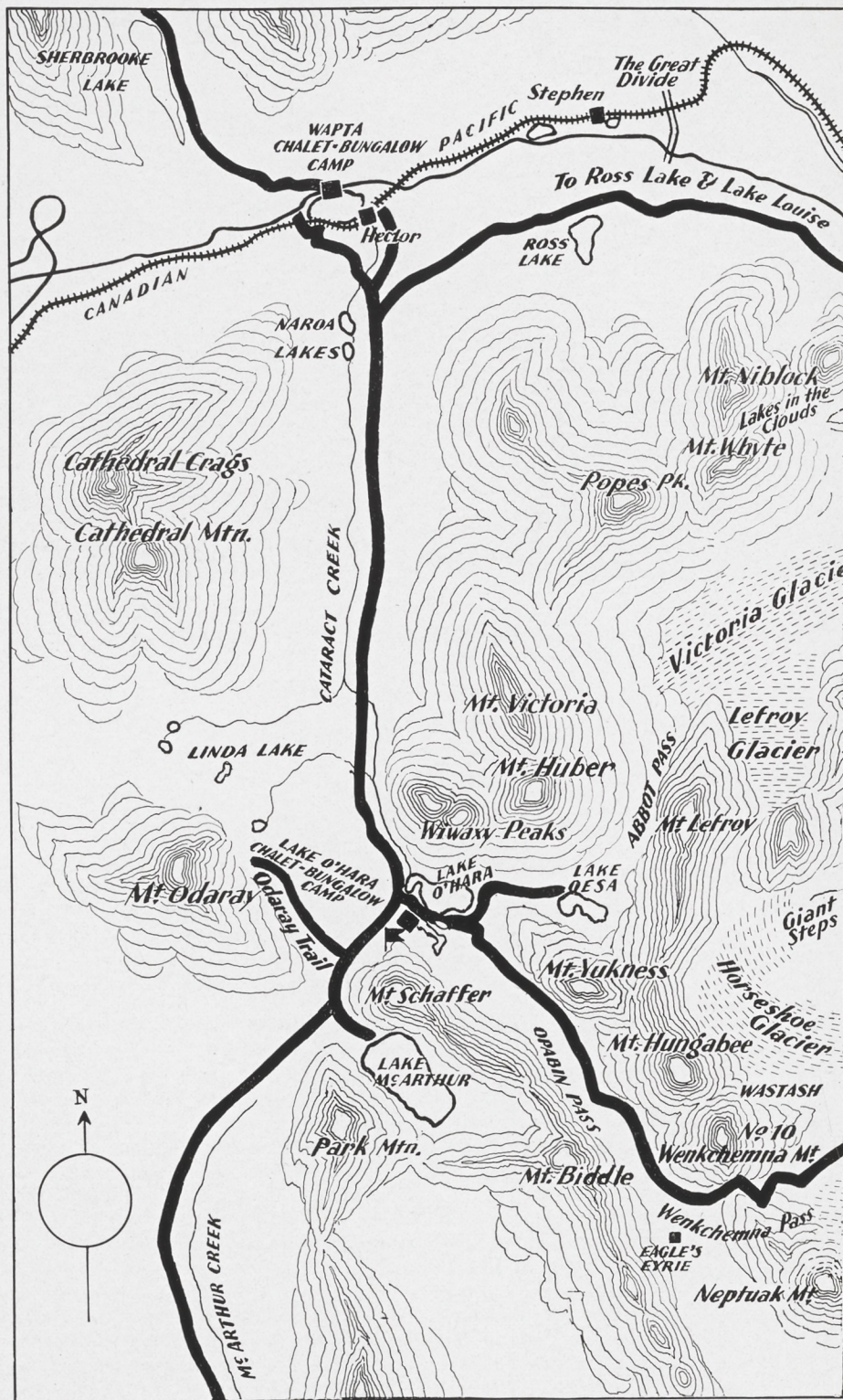
*Mount Cathedral and Lake O'Hara.*

VOL. 3    No. 9  
February 1936



*Official Organ of the  
Sky Line Trail Hikers  
of the Canadian Rockies.*

Printed in Canada.



Trails for Sky Line Hikers 'round Lake O'Hara.



*Photo by Associated Screen News.*

*Lake O'Hara Bungalow Camp — Headquarters for Sky Line Trail Hike, August 7-10, 1936.*

## *“Your Next Hike”*

by Germaine Kellermann

**W**ERE I not such a born roamer, I should feel inclined to agree with my friends, Mr. and Mrs. George Link, both professors at the Chicago University, who, year after year, spend their summer vacation at Lake O'Hara. “Why”—they say— “go anywhere else, since here is the most beautiful part of the Canadian Rockies which offer the most beautiful scenery in the world!”

The train from Lake Louise set us down at the bungalow camp facing lake Wapta. After an excellent lunch at the camp, we started on foot over the easy trail which climbs 1,000 ft. or more, up the Cataract Brook Valley, for eight miles to Lake O'Hara. This was really a delightful walk which we made in three hours; our baggage followed us by pack-horse.

As the path winds itself up into the mountains, the Majesty of Mt. Cathedral unfolds itself on the right while, on the left, the peaks of Wiwaxy gradually come into view. Just before reaching Lake O'Hara, the hiker suddenly emerges from a splendid forest of spruce and hemlock to find himself face to face with one of the most intimate, yet spectacular, sights it is possible to conceive, for the trail ends at Sargent Point on the shore of the Lake, facing the complete cirque of snow-covered and glacier-hung pinnacles which seem

to rise perpendicularly right out of the jade water.

It is from this point that the great painter, whose name it bears, made his famous picture of the Lake.

In a commanding position, close by, stands the picturesque chalet-camp, with its round dozen of cabins clustered about the shore. Mrs. Sydney Graves is the kind and capable hostess while Jim, the Chinese cook, combines all the culinary arts of the Orient and Occident.

We elected to take, for our sleeping quarters, one of the cabins which afforded us a magnificent view of the Lake and Mount Cathedral. From our little porch we watched the glorious sunset reflections change into the sketchy blue dusk until — the stars appearing one by one — we realized that it was night and supper-time at the chalet.



*Log Cabin at Lake O'Hara*

*Photo by Armstrong Roberts.*

In the rosy stillness of the dawn, we loved to wander around the Lake in one of the camp's row boats, among the creeping shadows and mists.

It was our unforgettable good fortune to see the Lake in a bright moonlight, with its dark peaks dramatically outlined against a starry sky. A large moon, flooding the mountains with its weird, cool light, hung over Schaffer's crest. The glaciers scintillated like cut steel and, on the surface of the water, transparent mists gently floated like a diaphanous gauze blown by some ghostly breath. Silver-fringed clouds, at times intercepting the moonbeams, cast, over this mystic scene, great shadows strangely mobile and impenetrable.

I know of no single spot where the hiker can make headquarters in such comfort and amid such beautiful surroundings as at Lake O'Hara. With the chalet-camp as center, there are excursions to be made in at least three major directions, with side trips branching from these principal trails.

Abbot Pass trail to Lake Louise leads by that lovely little Lake Oesa, set like a turquoise in a crown of diamonds formed by the glaciers of Mounts Victoria, Lefroy and Yukness. Leaving the camp, this trail leads around the south side of Lake O'Hara to Cataract Creek and continues along the Lake shore to the Seven Sisters' Falls on the East side.

The ascent from here is quite steep and takes one rapidly to a shelf commanding a truly splendid view of O'Hara backed by Mount Odaray. This outlook is the more impressive because one has been climbing steeply for fifteen minutes in thick timber where all distance is obscured. A short rest serves the double purpose of feasting the eye while regaining one's breath.

The trail now flattens out and passes by three pretty little lakes. By this time, timber line and O'Hara have disappeared from view and, amid the surrounding peaks, one has the feeling of being a thousand miles from anywhere. Yet, actually, it is hardly more than an hour's walk from the chalet at O'Hara up to Lake Oesa; we made the round trip between breakfast and luncheon.

Another delightful walk, to fill in a morning, or well worth a whole day, is up the Opabin trail.

Following the Lake shore once more as far as Cataract Creek, one picks up the Opabin trail close by and heads due south away from the Lake. This trail, though steep, is in splendid condition and zigzags right up the mountain side amid some of the finest spruce I have ever seen, trees so thick and tall that they stagger the visitor from eastern states where spruce and hemlock are plentiful, but so small in comparison



*Is it to be Opabin Pass or the Odaray Trail?*

*Photo by R. H. Palenske.*



*Central Chalet at Lake O'Hara Bungalow Camp.*



*Seven Sisters Falls.*



*MacArthur Trail, looking towards Odaray.*

*Photo by Maurice Kellermann.*

with these western giants. Truly, the Canadian Rockies do things on a grand scale!

A climb of about 500 ft. brings one out on to the Opabin bench which resembles a huge fortress rising straight out of the waters of the Lake. From this mighty fortress one looks right down into Lake O'Hara with astonishment, for it now offers an entirely new aspect; it is a fascinating peculiarity of this lake that its waters change colors with the altitudes and directions from which it is beheld, so that different impressions are to be enjoyed at every outlook. The chalet with its many cabins looks like a hen with her brood of chickens.

Across the Lake rise Little and Big Wiwaxy, Huber with its castellated turret trimmed with snow, the back section of Victoria, Lefroy with its huge hanging glacier dazzling in the sunlight, then Yukness at its right. This series of mountains composing half the cirque, of which Lake O'Hara forms the arena, is so spectacular and perfect in arrangement that the onlooker loses all sense of realism. He is carried off into a realm of fantastic imagination such as might have inspired Wagner to write a new music drama, or stirred Doré's illustrative genius.

Turning to the left, the eye looks off across a broad green valley to Cathedral Mountain. Cathedral is one of the most attractive peaks in all the Rockies:—pyramidal in shape from this south aspect, its base and east side flanked with snow and glacier, it presents an ever-changing personality as the sunlight and cloud shadows strike it.

This climb to Opabin is worth a trip to the Rockies, even if one saw nothing else.

The third major trail from O'Hara is the Lake MacArthur-Ottertail Valley.

The Hike to Lake MacArthur and return requires a full day. The trail leads off from Sargent Point and strikes south-west past the Alpine Club camp. The going is easy and through lovely woods for the first mile, then a gradual ascent begins until one comes out on the Odaray Bench at timber line. On this shelf are some magnificent larch; this tree somewhat resembles the eastern juniper and is found in the Rockies right close to timber line, I should say at just about seven thousand feet. The delicate tracery of its needle-like foliage and the grotesque forms of its trunk and branches give a fairy-hobgoblin atmosphere to its locale.



*Up over the shale on MacArthur Trail.*

*Photo by Maurice Kellermann.*



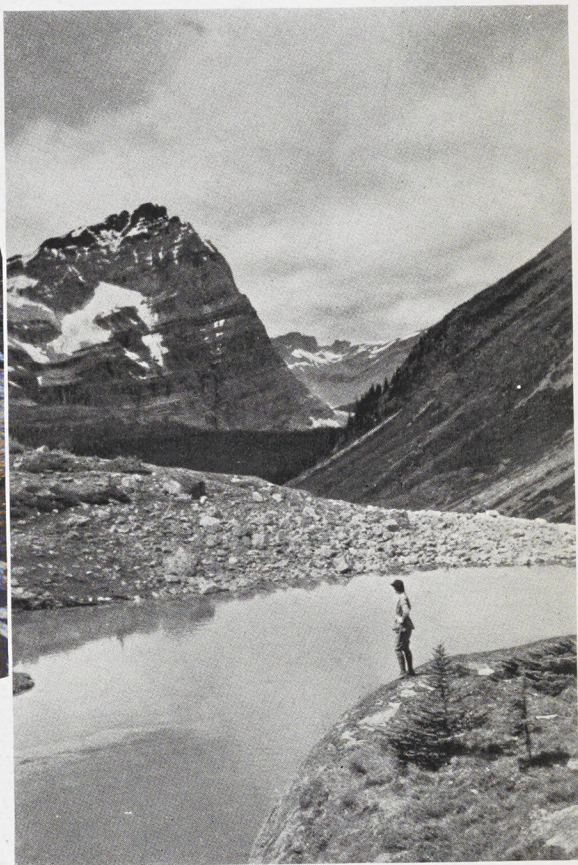
*Lake Oesa.*



*Larch Meadow on the*



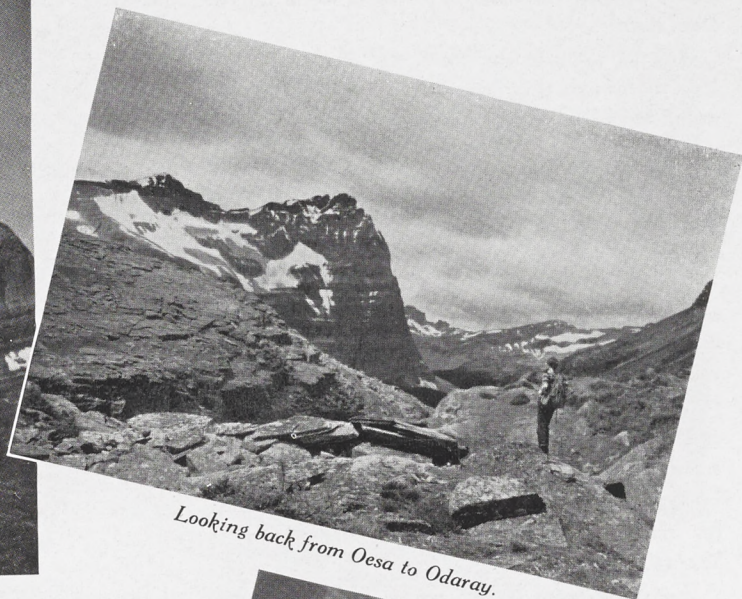
*The Rocky Trail to Oesa.*



*Little Alpine Lake*



Oesa Trail.



*Looking back from Oesa to Odaray.*



s on the Oesa Trail.



*Ladder on the Oesa Trail*

Photos by Maurice Kellermann.

Surely Arthur Rackham must have lived among the Larch!

A short stroll to the north end of the Odaray Bench through this little fairy forest and across alpine meadows thickly carpeted with pink and white heather, Indian-paint-brush and innumerable other mountain flowers, brings the explorer suddenly out on one of those grandiose panoramas that the Rockies love to flaunt at their visitors. To the left, the wall of Mt. Odaray, covered with snow and rock slide. Straight ahead, to the north, a sheer drop of at least a thousand feet. Right at one's feet, at the bottom of this abyss lies a string of tiny lakes. Beyond this begins the Duchesnay wooded valley leading across to the slope of Mt. Stephen. To the right, lies Cathedral Mountain again, and off in the far distance, many miles away, Hector and Wapta.

Retracing steps to the south end of Odaray Bench, one picks up the MacArthur trail again and an easy ascent gradually leads above timber line to a point where this trail turns left, leaving

the Ottertail trail which follows down into the valley of that name.

A final, short, steep climb up the shale slope of MacArthur Pass brings the hiker to Lake MacArthur. What a change from the wooded landscape of O'Hara! Up at MacArthur, all is stark nakedness: rock, ice, glacier, snow and bald rugged peaks. Firmly encased in this stern magnificence, the lake defiantly sparkles with all the hues and fires of the turquoise, emerald and sapphire.

By climbing some of the steep slopes that surround MacArthur, the more energetic hikers will be well repaid by the great open views which reveal themselves on all sides.

And now back to the Chalet Camp at O'Hara in time for a hot supper and a cosy evening around the big log fire, for O'Hara is cool at night!

A parting word to painters and photographers: Do not forget your colours, do not fail to bring your camera! Lake O'Hara is the artist's own bewildering paradise!



*Rock, glacier and bald rugged peaks at Lake MacArthur.*

*Photo by Maurice Kellermann.*

*Opabin Pass  
(18,450 feet)  
with Mount  
Biddle on right.*



*Close up of  
Opabin Pass.*



*Picking out the  
peaks 'round  
Opabin Pass.*

*Photos by  
R. H. Palenske.*

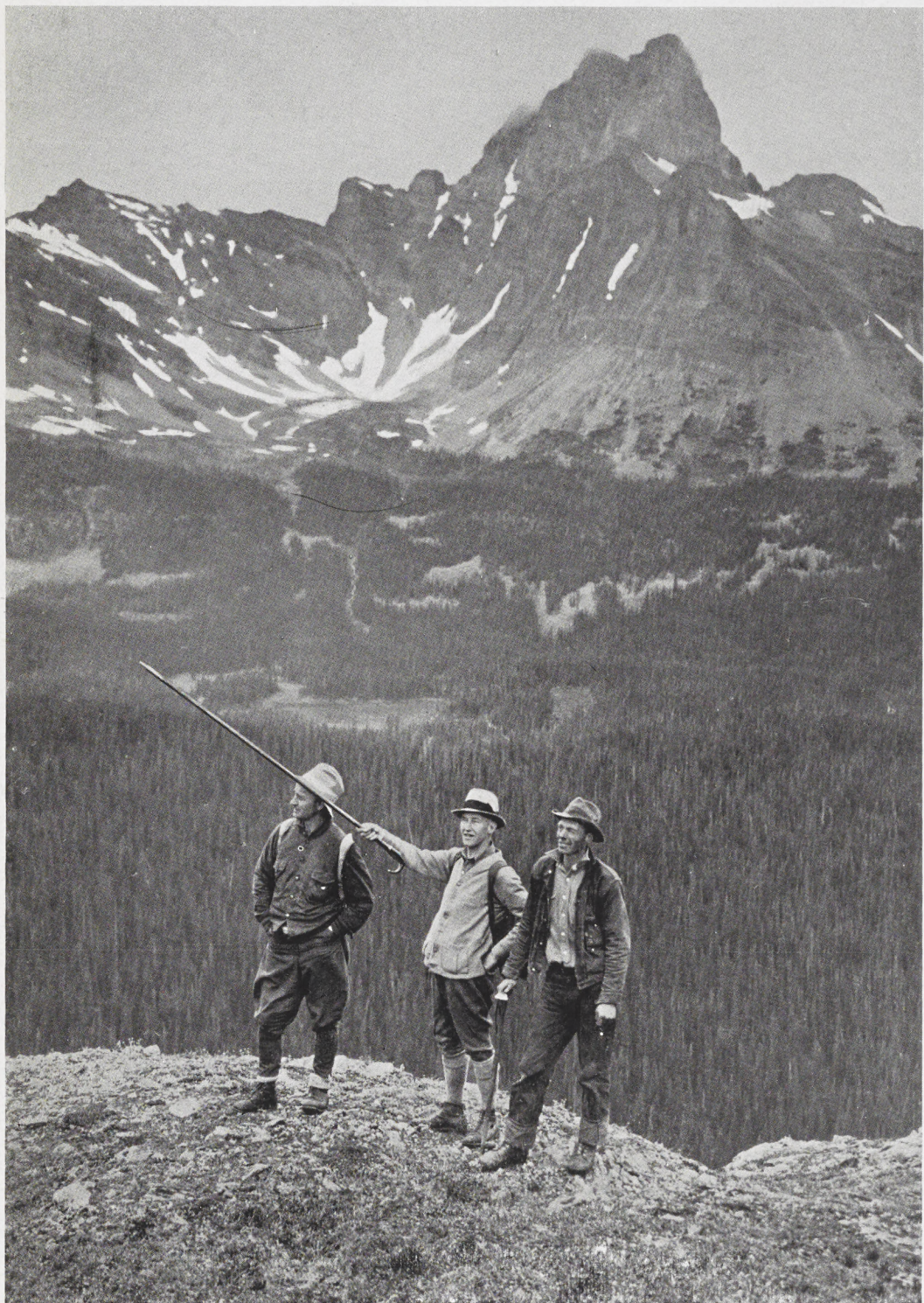


*Left:—Lake O'Hara from Odaray Bench.  
Right:—Larch and Alpine flowers  
on Odaray Bench Trail.*



*Photos by Maurice Kellermann.*

*Above timber — looking southeast from Odaray Bench Trail.*



*Look Out Point on Odayay — Mount Cathedral in background.*



*Photo by Maurice Kellermann*

*Lower end of Lake O'Hara, Mount Cathedral in background.*

## SKY LINE TRAIL HIKE PLANS

The organized Sky Line Trail Hikes arranged for next Summer, August 7th to 10th, will be based on one central Camp at Lake O'Hara in order to avoid the cost of changing camp every night, which last year proved rather heavy. Through the extension of the Oday Bench Trail and the improvement of the trail to Opabin Meadows, Lake O'Hara offers an attractive variety of hiking trails, and is itself one of the most beautiful lakes in the Canadian Rockies. Opabin Meadow is particularly rich in Alpine flowers, and the whole region offers unusual opportunities for the Nature lover. As our illustrations indicate, the scenery is highly spectacular, so don't forget your camera. The lake is well stocked with trout, the fishing being best as a rule towards evening. By arrangement with the General Manager of Canadian Pacific Hotels, we shall have the advantage of having our meals prepared and served from the Central Chalet, and for accommodation our members will have the choice of either sleeping in the Bungalow Camp, or in a tent camp set up by

the Brewster Transport Company, which will be close by. The number of beds available in the Bungalow Camp is limited, as a percentage of the accommodation must be reserved for the regular guests, but there will be lots of room in the tent camp and at a slightly lower price. The rates quoted include the cost of packing duffle bags from Wapta Station or Wapta Bungalow Camp to Lake O'Hara and return, and are as follows:—

Accommodation and meals (including lunch August 7th, and lunch August 10th) at Bungalow Camp, two or three in a cabin .....	\$22.50
— in Tent Camp .....	\$20.00

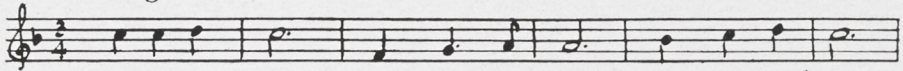
In order that suitable arrangements can be made for what should be a highly popular camp, please send your reservations as early as possible to the Secretary Treasurer,

SKY LINE TRAIL HIKERS  
Room 318 Windsor Station,  
Montreal.

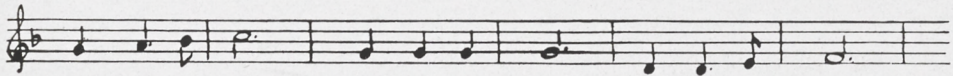
# Over the Pass

Tune - "Amidst the Myrtles as I Walk"  
Henry Lawes

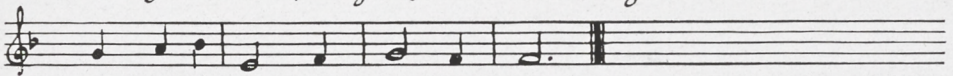
John Murray Gibbon



Over the pass mounting I roam, Guarded by fir,  
Gladly I left highway be-kind led where sweet airs  
Rambling a-bove high tim-ber-line, Foot-loose in moss



tall sentin-el, Scenting in glade bedded in foam  
woodland perfume, Finding on slide tangled and twined  
binding the shale, Gai-ly I cull gold colum-bine



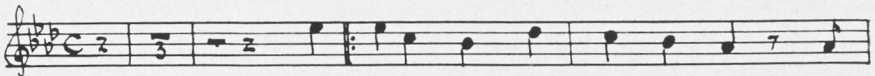
Blue viol-et and heather-bell.  
Red wintergreen and or-chid bloom.  
Nodding from ledge al-ong the trail.

# Forget-me-not

Tune - "Das Rosenband"

John Murray Gibbon

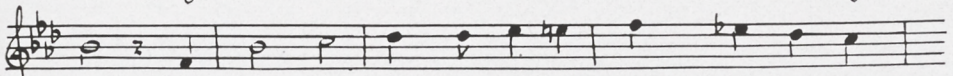
Schubert



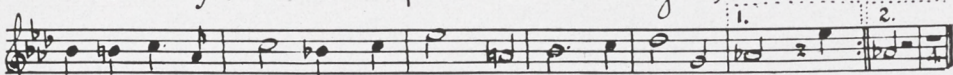
1. High over-head is vaulted blue With  
2. over-head I raise my eyes A-



battlements of snowy splendour; The air is keen with tang of  
bove the crags in 'snowy splen-dour; And there I see an eag-le



pine. The mounting trail has all my thought Until I  
soar. My soul is lift-ed too in thought, And so I



find in Alpine meadow The heavenly blue for-get-me-not. 2. High  
find in Alpine meadow My heaven in blue for-get-me-not.

# Sky Line Trail Hikers

## OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

*Hon. President:*  
SIR EDWARD BEATTY, G.B.E.

*Hon. Vice-President:*  
A. O. WHEELER, A.C., F.R.G.S.

*President:*  
CARL RUNGUS (New York and Banff)

*Vice-Presidents:*  
MAJOR W. J. SELBY WALKER (Calgary)  
PETER WHYTE (Banff)

LT.-COL. P. A. MOORE (Banff)  
MISS ELIZABETH BOOZ (Washington, Pa.)

*Secretary-Treasurer:*  
J. M. GIBBON,  
Room 318, Windsor Station,  
Montreal, Canada

*Western Secretary*  
DAN McCOWAN,  
Banff, Alberta

BYRON HARMON (Banff)  
SAM. WARD (Banff)

*Executive Committee*  
HARRY POLLARD (Calgary)  
MAJOR P. J. JENNINGS (Banff)  
J. M. WARDLE (Ottawa)

R. H. PALENSKE (Chicago)  
MRS. GEORGE VAUX, JR. (Bryn Mawr, Pa.)

*Council:*  
CAPT. E. N. RUSSELL (Field)  
L. S. CROSBY (Banff)  
DR. ROBERT GOW (Banff)  
T. B. MOFFAT (Calgary)  
CARL STERN (New York)  
MRS. JAMES SIMPSON (Banff)  
MISS L. TURBAYNE (Banff)  
MISS ANNA GUSTAFSSON (San Francisco)

GEORGE VAUX (Bryn Mawr, Pa.)  
H. G. PECKHAM (Vancouver)  
MRS. PETER WHYTE (Banff)  
MISS ADELAIDE SMITH (Montreal)  
MRS. DAN McCOWAN (Banff)  
MRS. A. O. WHEELER (Sidney, B.C.)  
MISS M. S. STRAWBRIDGE (Montreal)

*Honorary Members:*  
J. B. HARKIN (Ottawa)  
WALTER D. WILCOX (Washington, D.C.)

J. M. WARDLE (Ottawa)  
WILF. CARTER (Calgary)

*Life Members:*  
MRS. GEORGE VAUX, JR.  
GEORGE VAUX

J. M. GIBBON

### LIST OF MEMBERS

Adam, Miss Edith, Marlow, Worcs., England  
Aemmer, Rudolf, Lake Louise, Alta.  
Armbrister Fred., Nassau, Bahamas.  
Angus, J. A., Banff, Alta.  
Aylen, Miss Gwyneth, Ottawa, Ont.  
Aylen, Miss Dorothea, Ottawa, Ont.

Bain, A. D., Lake Louise, Alta.  
Bonar, J. C., Montreal.  
Booz, Miss Elizabeth, Washington, Pa.  
Brewster, James I., Banff, Alta.  
Brewster, Mrs. James I., Banff, Alta.  
Brewster, Mrs. Pat., Banff, Alta.  
Brodnitz, Dr. Otto W., New York, N.Y.  
Buck, Robert, Evanston, Ill.

Cancille, Mrs. Rita, Phoenix, Arizona.  
Carter, Wilf., Calgary, Alta.  
Coleman, H. T., Vancouver, B.C.  
Conant, Rev. Ruth S., Hartford, Conn.  
Crosby, L. S., Banff, Alta.

de Laitre, John, Wayzata, Minn.  
de Laitre, Mrs. John, Wayzata, Minn.

Engelhard, Miss Georgia, New York, N.Y.  
Ermingier, Miss Bertha, Chicago, Ill.  
Ermingier, Mrs. H. B., Jr., Chicago, Ill.

Fenz, Ernest, Lake Louise, Alta.  
Fulda, Miss Ruth, Banff, Alta.

Gibbon, J. M., Montreal, Que.  
Gillespie, G. F., Montreal, Que.  
Gillespie, Miss Marion, Montreal, Que.  
Goodrich, Miss B. L., South Milwaukee, Wis.  
Gow, Dr. Robert, Banff, Alta.  
Graves, S., Lake O'Hara, B.C.  
Gustafsson, Miss Anna, San Francisco, Cal.

Hains, Douglas, Montreal, Que.  
Hall, Fred H., Ottumwa, Iowa.  
Harbison, Miss Helen D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Harmon, Byron, Banff, Alta.  
Holmes, Miss Clara, Winnipeg, Man.  
Houston, Miss Martha I., Lethbridge, Alta.

Jamieson, Mrs. Edna, Victoria, B.C.  
Jennings, Major P. J., Banff, Alta.  
Joice, Miss Margaret G., Saskatoon, Sask.

Kellermann, Maurice, New York, N.Y.  
Kellermann, Mrs. Maurice, New York, N.Y.

Lynch, Daisy, Winnipeg, Man.

Mitchell, G. B., New York, N.Y.  
Moore, Mrs. P. A., Banff, Alta.  
Moore, Colonel Philip A., Banff, Alta.  
Moorhead, Miss Margaret H., Bassano, Alta.  
McCormick, Chauncey, Chicago, Ill.  
McCormick, Roger, Groton, Mass.  
McCowan, Mrs. Dan., Banff, Alta.  
McCowan, Dan., Banff, Alta.  
Moffat, T. B., Calgary, Alta.

Page, Miss Isabel W., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Palenske, R. H., Chicago, Ill.  
Palenske, Miss Betty, Wilmette, Ill.  
Pease, Albert A., Oak Park, Ill.  
Peckham, H. G., Vancouver, B.C.  
Pickard, Frank A., West Concord, Mass.  
Pollard, Harry, Calgary, Alta.

Redman, Miss Winifred, Toronto, Ont.  
Reid, Douglas, Banff, Alta.  
Robinson, Mrs. J. Dean, Banff, Alta.  
Roden, Mrs. Frank, Toronto, Ont.  
Roden, L. B., Toronto, Ont.  
Roden, Mrs. L. B., Toronto, Ont.  
Rogers, Mrs. D. N., Southampton, Hants, England

Rolston, F. W., Hamilton, Ont.  
Rungius, Carl, Banff, Alta.  
Russell, Capt. E. N., Field, B.C.

Sanson, N. B., Banff, Alta.  
Simpson, Mrs. James, Banff, Alta.  
Sloper, Mrs. Leslie A., Boston, Mass.  
Sloper, Leslie A., Boston, Mass.  
Smith, Miss Adelaide, Montreal, Que.  
Somerville, Ian C., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Spouse, Mrs. John, Vancouver, B.C.  
Stern, Carl, New York, N.Y.  
Stevenson, Prof. O. J., Guelph, Ont.  
Stevenson, Mrs. O. J., Guelph, Ont.  
Stewart, Miss M. B., Whitby, Ont.  
Strawbridge, Miss M. S., Montreal, Que.  
Sussdorff, Louis, Jr., Washington, D.C.

Thomas, Miss Dorothy M., Malvern, Worcs., England  
Turbayne, Miss L., Banff, Alta.

Vaux, Mrs. George, Jr., Bryn Mawr, Pa.  
Vaux, George, Bryn Mawr, Pa.  
Vaux, Henry, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Walker, Major W. J. Selby, Calgary, Alta.  
Ward, Mrs. Samuel, Banff, Alta.  
Ward, Samuel, Banff, Alta.  
Watts, Miss Freda E., London, England.  
Wheeler, John O., Sidney, B.C.  
Wheeler, A. O., Sidney, B.C.  
Wheeler, Mrs. A. O., Sidney, B.C.  
Wilder, Miss Emma N., La Crosse, Wis.  
Wilson, Miss Betty, Banff, Alta.  
Wilson, Miss Bernice, Banff, Alta.  
Wilson, Mrs. John C., Banff, Alta.  
Whitford, W. C., Chicago, Ill.  
Whyte, Peter, Banff, Alta.  
Whyte, Mrs. Peter, Banff, Alta.  
Whyte, Miss Dorothy V., Lynn Creek, B.C.  
Wyatt, Miss Elva A., Chicago, Ill.